THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) With a view to bring about consensus amongst the States and provide guidance on norms of appraisals of individual projects and modalities for project funding etc., the Central Government has constituted a Task Force in December, 2002 under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhu, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha. The Task Force has constituted an Independent Group of Experts (IGE) to assist itself in assessing the alternative proposals received from various individuals/groups to examine practicality, technical feasibility and general cost/benefit projection of such proposals. In this regard, the National Water-ways Project (NWP) proposed by Shri A. C. Kamaraj, Madurai was examined by the IGE along with various other proposals. The IGE in its report (September, 2003) submitted to the Task Force has concluded that all the proposals examined are not rooted in the basic tenets of temporal and spatial hydrology of the river basins and as such are technically unsound, incomplete and hence, cannot be pursued in their present form.

Dam Safety Authority

2311. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Dam Sefety Authority to take care of unsafe dams;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal. However, the Government of India has already set up one Dam Safety Organisation in Central Water Commission under the Ministry of Water Resources in May, 1979 whose function is to provide advisory dam safety services to dam owning States/Organisations. There is also a Standing Committee namely "National Committee on Dam Safety" for monitoring follow up activities in respect of dam safety procedures and dam safety activities in various States and to act as a forum for exchange of views on techniques adopted for remedial measures to relieve distress.